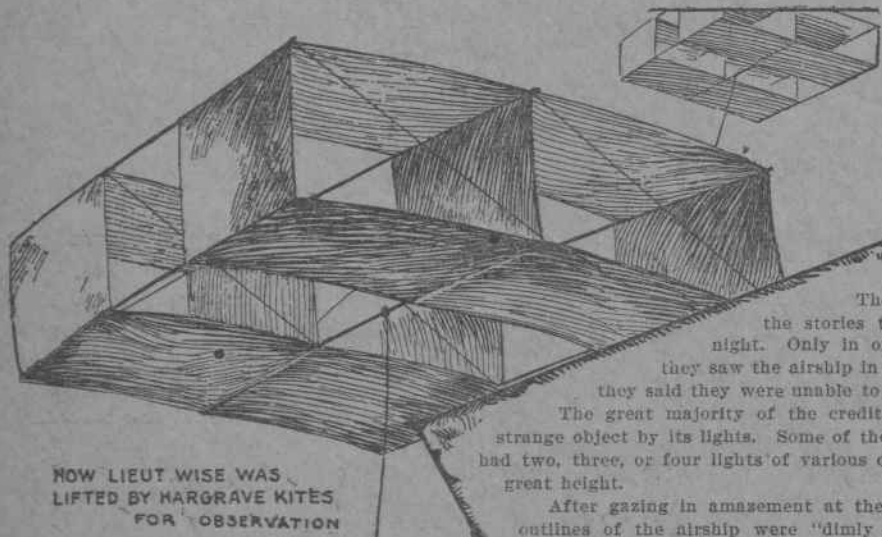


How Uncle Sam's Weather Sharp Explains That Mysterious Airship.

—ARE WE KITE CRAZY?—

A Veritable Epidemic of Aerial Flyers of All Sorts and Shapes.



Here They Are—The

HERE are the names of over eighty good citizens of this country who believe they have seen an airship in the sky, and many of them have made affidavits to that effect. As you compare the dates and localities, glancing down the list, you will see that the progress of the strange aerial visitor has been more or less rapid:

GEORGE D. COLLINS, lawyer, San Francisco, Cal., November 18.
J. A. REA, Belleville, Kan., March 27.
GOVERNOR JOHN W. LEEDY, Topeka, Kan., March 27.
J. E. GUNN, Kansas City, Mo., April 1.
E. E. MASON, Kansas City, Mo., April 1.
A. L. STOUT, Kansas City, Mo., April 1.
C. MCGREGOR, Kansas City, Mo., April 1.
EDWARD BROWN, Kansas City, Mo., April 1.
C. SLATER, Kansas City, Mo., April 1.
O. D. RIPLINGER, merchant, Omaha, Neb., April 5.
W. I. HAWKS, Omaha, Neb., April 5.
H. K. BURKET, merchant, Omaha, Neb., April 5.
JOSEPH, JR., Omaha, Neb., April 5.
GOLD DIETZ, Omaha, Neb., April 5.
L. P. FUNKHOUSER, Omaha, Neb., April 5.

Authentic List of Veracious

ARTHUR GUION, merchant, Omaha, Neb., April 5.
HENRY JONES, Omaha, Neb., April 5.
FRANK BURKE, Omaha, Neb., April 5.
T. B. SCHOFIELD, Omaha, Neb., April 5.
RICHARD BUTLER, Wolf Creek, Ia., April 7.
L. E. CLOWSON, attorney, Battle Creek, Mich., April 8.

American Citizens Who

W. A. CADY, Jeweller, Battle Creek, Mich., April 8.
DR. M'GUFFIN, Battle Creek, Mich., April 8.
J. H. DORSEY, manager Western Union Telegraph office, Battle Creek, Mich., April 8.
ED. M'NEAL, Battle Creek, Mich., April 8.
ROBERT LOWEN, Jeweller, No. 1926 Sherman avenue, Chicago, April 9.
HENRY SOMERS, Kalamazoo, Mich., April 11.
GEORGE W. SOMERS, merchant, Kalamazoo, Mich., April 11.
WILLIAM CHADBURN, merchant, Kalamazoo, Mich., April 11.
WILLIAM STREET, Carlinville, Ill., April 11.
EDWARD TEEPLES, Carlinville, Ill., April 11.
FRANK METCALF, Carlinville, Ill., April 11.

Saw the Puzzle of

JAMES FREDERICK, Carlinville, Ill., April 11.
J. F. BROWN, Carlinville, Ill., April 11.
T. C. ROGERS, Carlinville, Ill., April 11.
JAMES B. DURAND, merchant, Lake Forest, Ill., April 11.
FRANK RAY, merchant, Lake Forest, Ill., April 11.

A Composite Picture of the Strange Celestial "What Is It"



ON MAY 21 people in Yonkers said they had seen something the previous night that looked like an airship, and a day or two previously a man at Atlantic Highlands asserted he had seen it hovering over Sandy Hook. There is one distinguishing characteristic about nearly all the stories told by the good people—the alleged airship was seen at night. Only in one or two instances have reliable citizens asserted that they saw the airship in the sky in the daytime, and then it was so far away that they said they were unable to make out its exact form. The great majority of the creditable witnesses of the airship were first attracted to the strange object by its lights. Some of them say it carried a search-light. Nearly all agree that it had two, three, or four lights of various colors, and that these were to be seen in the sky at a great height. After gazing in amazement at these strange lights, the witnesses go on to say that the outlines of the airship were "dimly seen." They describe it as having a considerable body, which appeared to move in a horizontal direction, the lights hanging beneath it. When you leave these safe generalities as to the airship you get into the region of wheels, wings, fans and dark forms of men seen by people of a highly imaginative nature. The safe, conservative citizens will only admit the lights and the dark form of the airship, and have flatly denied the existence of fan-wheels, screws and rudders claimed to have been seen by more excitable people standing beside them at the time. Among all the hundreds of people who claim to have seen the airship, and in all the varying stories told by them, there is substantial agreement about the lights and the horizontal form of the weird aerial visitor. Then, again, there is the fact that the alleged airship was seen on the same night by reputable citizens in two or more widely separated places. Unless there is a fleet of airships in the sky that hide in the daytime and only mount into the heavens when darkness has come upon the earth, the existence of one such craft must be discredited. It would be a physical impossibility for an airship to appear on the same night at Lynn Grove, Iowa, and Cleveland, Ohio, where the recent visitors were seen on April 15. But the number of reputable citizens who have given their testimony prove beyond doubt that the upper atmosphere has recently been occupied by some strange, new voyagers. There is hardly a doubt, for instance, that on the night of April 1 strange lights and a dark, horizontal body were seen in the sky at Anderson, Ind., for some of the most respectable residents of the town have sworn to it. Nor is there much reason to question that on the same night a similar phenomenon was witnessed from Chicago, for many people whose word is to be relied on have said so. In many other parts of the West during the month of April these lights and the same dark body were seen, among the witnesses being the Governor of a State and a clergyman. What is the explanation of this strange mystery? No practical scientific man believes that the problem of aerial navigation has suddenly been

solved by an individual who prefers to remain unknown and to indulge his flying only at night. No sudden balloon fever has struck the country.

But a kite epidemic has broken out since the invention of the new scientific kites. Amateurs all over the country are trying their hand at kite flying, especially at night, endeavoring to perfect some system of signalling from the clouds. Here is the explanation of the airship stories offered by Professor Moore, Chief of the Weather Bureau at Washington:

"They are kites—that is to say, kites of the new-fangled, cellular pattern, which people all over the country have been making, after plans published not long ago by the Weather Bureau. The utmost interest has been exhibited by newspaper accounts of these kites, and many persons in various cities, provided with the plans, have gone to work to manufacture them for purposes of amusement."

"This we know to be a fact. Incidentally it often happens that the kites escape, and under such conditions they will float at a great height for a long time, traveling in some cases for a surprising distance. Commonly they are large affairs, ten feet or more in length."

"Attach three or four lanterns to one of them, and, as seen at night, making allowance for exaggeration by the imagination, the contrivance corresponds reasonably well to the descriptions printed. There is no doubt whatever that the so-called airship floating near Washington the other day was a kite which got away from our experts near Arlington on that same day."

The craze for kites is now in full swing. Modern, up-to-date kites, looking like soap boxes, boilers, umbrellas and clusters of pigeon houses, are being flown all over the country. These are modifications of the Hargrave cellular kite, invented by a New Zealander three years ago, or of the Eddy kite, invented in this city, an improvement on the

Which Has Been Reported in All Parts of the Country.

Malay tailless kite. These new kites are made in a great variety of forms. They are sent up singly and in tandem. Some carry thermometers and cameras, others lift signal lights into the clouds at night. Lieutenant Wise was the first man to make a kite ascension. The weight of the ropes, kites, chair and man on this occasion was 220 pounds, and the lifting area of the four kites that pulled him up was 312 square feet. The wind was blowing seventeen miles an hour. This remarkable achievement was performed on January 22, with four big Eddy kites of the modified Malay pattern, and Lieutenant Wise says he was lifted to a height of forty-two feet. But perhaps the most valuable scientific discoveries thus far made with the new kites have been at the Blue Hill observatory, in Massachusetts. This institution is maintained by Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch, of Boston, a wealthy man, who has made meteorology his life. He has seventy different kinds of kites in his observatory, which he has been using to study the higher levels of the atmosphere. He has secured elaborate records of wind velocity, temperature, pressure and moisture up to 8,700 feet above the earth. The explanation in kite-flying by W. A. Eddy are well known. Another odd kite is the Chanute ladder kite shown in the accompanying illustration.

the Sky and Are

III., April 11.
E. W. ALEX, Lake Forest, Ill., April 11.
W. R. WILLIAMS, Lake Forest, Ill., April 11.
EDWARD WILLIAMS, Lake Forest, Ill., April 11.
R. J. SMITH, Jeweller, Anderson, Ind., April 11.
AMOS COBURN, ex-Chief of Police, Anderson, Ind., April 11.
E. C. BLANK, Anderson, Ind., April 11.
G. W. KINNARD, Anderson, Ind., April 11.
AUGUST BREST, Anderson, Ind., April 11.
GEORGE C. FORREY, Anderson, Ind., April 11.
J. K. GERING, Anderson, Ind., April 11.
WALTER RESCH, Anderson, Ind., April 11.
GUSTAVE STROUP, Anderson, Ind., April 11.

Willing to Make

R. W. ALLEN, No. 1788 West Chicago avenue, Chicago, Ill., April 11.
DR. GEORGE F. PIERCE, No. 1788 West Chicago avenue, Chicago, April 11.
HERMAN FRY, druggist, North avenue and Larrabee street, Chicago, April 11.
GEORGE FRY, Chicago, April 11.
DR. AUGUST VENN, Chicago, April 11.
DR. E. G. EARL, Chicago, April 11.
DESK SERGEANT HAYES, Larrabee Street Police Station, Chicago, April 11.
D. C. KYLE, County Surveyor, Washington, Iowa, April 13.
W. P. MOOTHART, ex-County Recorder, Washington, Iowa, April 13.
REV. DR. GRAY, Washington, Iowa, April 13.
ROBERT HITCH, El Paso, Ill., April 13.

Affidavit to the Fact.

WILLIAM H. WALTERS, merchant, Birmingham, Ia., April 14.
HANEY SAVIDGE, Downs, Ill., April 11.
J. P. W. ESON, Bloomington, Ill., April 15.
JAMES EVANS, Iveryman, Lynn Grove, Ia., April 15.
F. G. ELLIS, harness dealer, Lynn Grove, Ia., April 15.
BENJAMIN BULAND, Lynn Grove, Ia., April 15.
DAVID EVANS, Lynn Grove, Ia., April 15.
JOSEPH CROSBY, Lynn Grove, Ia., April 15.
CAPTAIN JOSEPH SINGLER, of tug Sea Wing Cleveland, Ohio, April 15.
WALTER M'CAN, newsdealer, Rogers Park, Chicago, April 15.
WILLIAM HOODLESS, Rogers Park, Chicago, April 15.
E. L. OSBORNE, Rogers Park, Chicago, April 15.
G. A. OVEROCKER, Rogers Park, Chicago, April 15.
BERT SWEAREGEN, Astoria, Ill., April 16.
W. H. ROGERS, Glenville, Ohio, April 28.
THOMAS SMALL, Glenville, Ohio, April 28.
MRS. THOMAS SMALL, Glenville, Ohio, April 28.

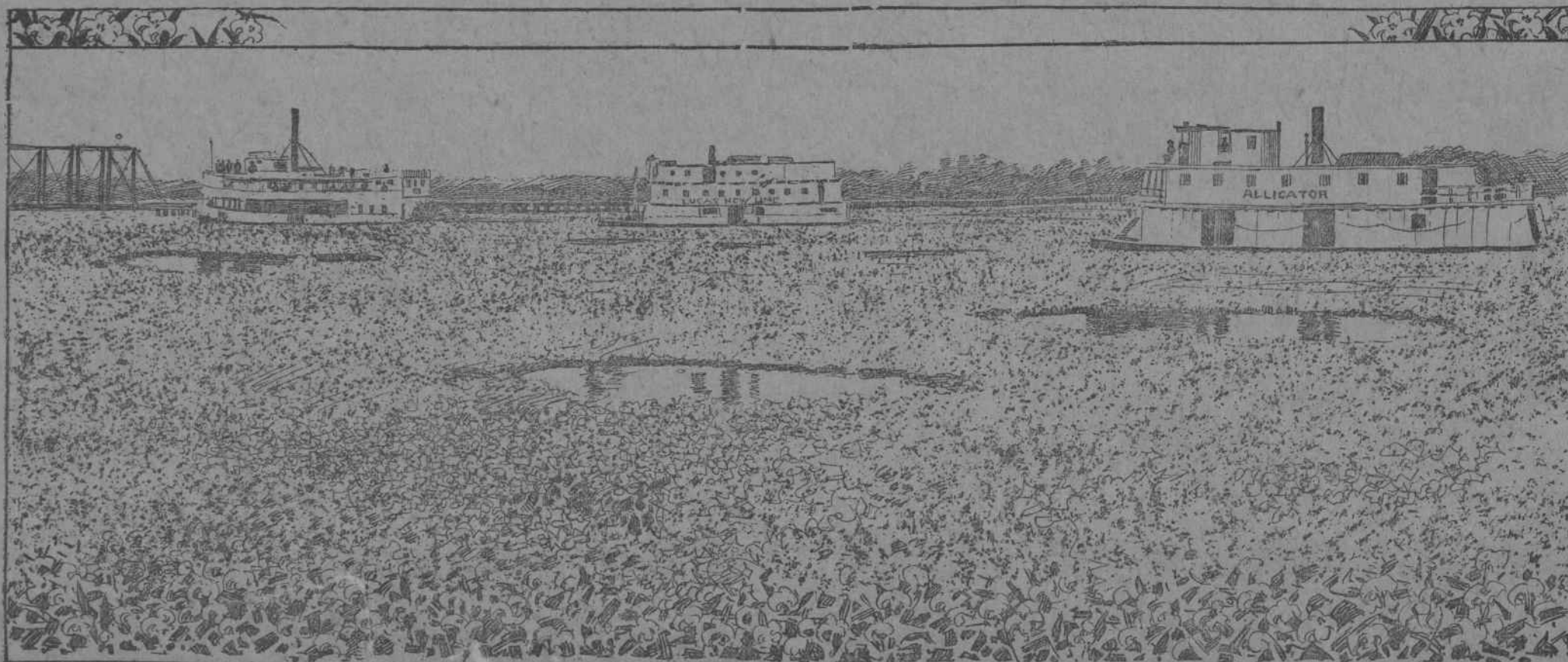
A Plague of Flowers Which Has

FLORIDA is afflicted with a pest of water hyacinths which threatens to block up all her rivers. This particular species is so luxuriant that a single plant would in a few years spread over the entire Atlantic Ocean, if that were a body of still, fresh water.

The St. John's River is particularly infested with the plant. A photograph has been taken showing a blockade formed by an accumulation of the hyacinths and extending clear across the river at Palatka. The steamboats can with difficulty force their way through it, and before long will be unable to do so. The paddle wheels are fouled and almost stopped by the vegetable boom.

The plant is very beautiful, and when in flower, presents a superb effect, mile after mile of water being transformed into a continuous bed of exquisite blossoms. Oddly enough, it floats, having no hold on the bottom, and drifts about with wind current. While it can be propagated by seed, its chief method of spreading is by runners like those of the strawberry.

Species of hyacinth 1 to 10



The Pest of Hyacinths at Palatka, Fla., Which Has Blocked Up Navigation on the St. John's River.

(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH SENT TO THE JOURNAL.)

Clogged Up Navigation Down south.

Venezuela. From that country some of the seeds were obtained five years ago by W. F. Fuller, of Edgewater, Fla., who planted them in a pond. In a very short time they choked up the pond so as to make it unfit for any other purpose. Then the owner raked the plants off the pond, and, to get rid of them, threw them into the St. John's River, where they grew out of all control. That was the origin of the present trouble in the St. John's River.

The hyacinths have done great damage to fishing, logging and other industries. Cattle are extremely fond of the hyacinth, so that the cattlemen are rather inclined to encourage it.

Meanwhile the pest threatens to spread into other waters of the State, and Congress has been asked to appropriate money with which to fight it. Climatic conditions in Florida evidently are extremely favorable to the plant, and the sluggish flow of the streams helps it. A rapid river would soon carry the hyacinths out to sea en masse. One plan suggested for dealing with the plague is to gather them in bulk from the surface of the water with dredges and crush them to pulp with heavy rollers. Another idea is to construct booms across the river to collect the plants, at which places there should be mills or crematories for their destruction.